



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

229467



OCT 26 2009

Honorable Matthew J. Titone  
New York State Assembly  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Titone:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2009 regarding the need to take actions to protect the public health, welfare, and the environment of the people in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island. EPA shares your concern about the elevated lead levels we have found there.

When the results of sampling found elevated lead levels at 2000 Richmond Terrace, the location of the Jewett White Lead site, we required actions from the property owner to stabilize the site and contain the lead contamination. Road grit samples collected in June 2009 show that the stormwater management controls at 2000 Richmond Terrace are working to prevent lead-contaminated stormwater runoff from leaving the property. Our work at the site is not complete and is ongoing. Jewett White Lead continues to be the focus of an active investigation and cleanup.

During the week of June 8, 2009, EPA collected a total of 248 soil samples from the Port Richmond community to determine if lead from the former Jewett White Lead site had migrated into the surrounding neighborhood. Thirteen residential properties located immediately adjacent the 2000 Richmond Terrace property were included in the off-site sampling. Elevated levels of lead were found in the backyards of the properties sampled, and in the grassy medians within a six-block area surrounding the former Jewett site and a background area located on Harrison Avenue.

Although we have found elevated levels of lead in people's backyards, we have not yet been able to tie these directly to the Jewett White Lead site. We're continuing to test soil and analyze these results to determine if the Jewett White Lead site is a significant contributing source of the lead contamination found in the residential yards and the community. Once we have completed our investigation, the Agency will, in consultation with the New York City and state health departments, determine if further testing or cleanup work beyond what is already planned for the Jewett White Lead site is necessary.

The lead levels present in the community are consistent with lead levels found in other industrial urban areas across the nation. It is likely that at least some of the lead in the community is from lead-based paint, vehicle emissions, and other unidentified sources. EPA is committed to assisting the Port Richmond community in reducing exposure to the elevated levels

of lead found there and is looking into federal, state, and local programs that may be available to address the lead hazard risks that are present.

We will continue to keep the public informed of our progress in investigating and conducting the environmental cleanup of this site. If you have any questions, please let me know, or have your staff contact Peter Brandt, Chief for Intergovernmental & Community Affairs, at 212-637-3657.

Sincerely,

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George Pavlou  
Acting Regional Administrator



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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OCT 26 2009

Honorable Kenneth Mitchell  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway,  
Room 1821  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2009 regarding the need to take actions to protect the public health, welfare, and the environment of the people in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island. EPA shares your concern about the elevated lead levels we have found there.

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OCT 26 2009

Honorable Michael E. McMahon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McMahon:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2009 regarding the need to take actions to protect the public health, welfare, and the environment of the people in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island. EPA shares your concern about the elevated lead levels we have found there.

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OCT 26 2009

Honorable James P. Molinaro  
Borough President of Staten Island  
Borough Hall – Room 120  
Staten Island, New York 10301

Dear Borough President Molinaro:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2009 regarding the need to take actions to protect the public health, welfare, and the environment of the people in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island. EPA shares your concern about the elevated lead levels we have found there.

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Acting Regional Administrator





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007 2 6 138

Honorable Diane J. Savino  
New York State Senate  
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Savino:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2009 regarding the need to take actions to protect the public health, welfare, and the environment of the people in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island. EPA shares your concern about the elevated lead levels we have found there.

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Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

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